

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Tonawanda Coke Corporation - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #7
RV1
Tonawanda Coke Corporation
0201601
Tonawanda, NY

To: Peter Lopez, EPA, Region 2
Christopher Lyon, EPA ORA Region 2
Walter Mugdan, EPA ORA, Region 2
Angela Carpenter, EPA ERRD, Region 2
John Prince, EPA ERRD, Region 2
Eric Wilson, EPA ERRD, Region 2
Joe Rotola, EPA RAB, Region 2
Eric Mosher, EPA RPB, Region 2
Dore LaPosta, EPA DECA, Region 2
Leonard Voo, EPA DECA, Region 2
Shawna Hoppe, EPA RPB, Region 2
Mark Pane, EPA RAB, Region 2
Thomas Budroe, EPA RAB, Region 2
Dwayne Harrington, EPA RPB, Region 2
Peter Lisichenko, EPA, RAB Region 2
Harish Patel, EPA DECA, Region 2
Douglas McKenna, EPA DECA, Region 2
James Doyle, EPA ORC, Region 2
Margo Ludmer, EPA ORC Region 2
Mary Mears, EPA PAD, Region 2
Michael Basile, EPA PAD, Region 2
James Quinn, NYSDEC
Christopher LaLone, NYSDEC
Kevin Hale, NYSDEC
Bonnie Hriczko, EPA RAB, Region 2
Tim Benton, Weston Solutions

From: Thomas Budroe, OSC

Date: 10/24/2018

Reporting Period: 10/24/2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A28U	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	STATE	Incident Category:	
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/13/2018	Start Date:	10/13/2018
Demob Date:	10/21/2018	Completion Date:	10/21/2018
CERCLIS ID:	NYD088413877	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	Yes
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1 Incident Category

Abandoned coke manufacturing plant releasing hazardous substances into the environment.

1.1.2 Site Description

Tonawanda Coke Corporation is a coke manufacturing plant; approximately 160 acres in an industrial area. The facility has been in operation for approximately 100 years. The 30 currently operating coke ovens have been in use since early 1960.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 3875 River Rd, Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The area is an industrial area adjacent to the Niagara River. The nearest residence is located approximately 0.25 miles away.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Flammable liquids contained in bulk storage tanks pose a threat of fire and explosion should they encounter an ignition source. Sodium hydroxide, a corrosive material, has been discharged onto the ground and poses a health threat to anyone who may come in contact with this material. One scrubber tower contains a pyrophoric material which may spontaneously combust if the nitrogen blanket inside the vessel is not maintained. Drums of hydrochloric acid and solvents are being stored on an unpaved surface without secondary containment. A full removal site evaluation will be conducted and addressed following facility

shutdown.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA is inspecting the Site, with limited assistance from TCC, to identify all areas of concern and determine which facility operations will require EPA's immediate attention to circumvent a release of hazardous substances to the environment.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA was informed that the Tonawanda Coke Corp. (TCC) would be abandoning the plant on Saturday, October 27, 2018. The exact time of day has not yet been provided. EPA is preparing to continue running the boiler and operations necessary to treat the contaminated aqueous waste streams stored onsite. The ammonia still continues treating the weak ammonia liquor 24 hours a day. The process volume was increased today from 20 to 50 gallons per minute, which is the maximum achievable rate. The OSC continues to inspect and evaluate all vessels, systems and releases on the plant in support of a removal site evaluation. EPA is also working on hiring site security, taking over utilities, contracting with Praxair for a nitrogen blanket supply and preparing to operate the water treatment systems.

The waste water assessment team consisting of an OSC, one RST3 wastewater engineer and an EPA DECA engineer familiar with the facility continued evaluating the wastewater treatment system. Discussions with the TCC plant engineer clarified procedures for operation of the equalization tank/Adams Strainer and sulfuric acid systems. The team continued verification of piping, valving and pump control location and function to facilitate documentation of key system components and process description.

2.1.3 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

TCC filed for bankruptcy on October 16, 2018. ORC continues to represent EPA's interest with TCC attorneys.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA is preparing to assume responsibility for securing the Site. Upon being notified that TCC is no longer maintaining the treatment of storm water and process water discharges, EPA reached out internally to obtain information regarding the two treatment system design and operation. EPA is considering operating these systems with input of experts from EPA's Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (DECA). In order to evaluate the current effectiveness of these systems, EPA will be sampling the discharge from both during the week of October 22, 2018. DESA will conduct sample collection and samples will be analyzed by the EPA Region 2 lab. There has been conflicting information from TCC regarding the layoff of plant personnel responsible for the operation of the boiler which is necessary to maintain steam lines which will provide for additional purging of the system and operation of the byproduct treatment system. It is however EPA's understanding that TCC will continue to operate the boiler in the near term. EPA will continue efforts to assume responsibility for all utilities in order to maintain power to the facility. EPA will also continue to work with the TCC Environmental Manager to gain information regarding plant operations and potential/actual releases of hazardous substances. EPA is preparing to sample and cleanup contamination in two separate plant areas.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will continue to assess the potential public and environmental threats posed by the Site.

2.2.2 Issues

TCC will not inform EPA how long they will remain on site to assist with transition.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	100.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	100.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA is coordinating with, DOJ, NYSDEC and the Town of Tonawanda Water Resources Department.

4. Personnel On Site

Two OSCs, one DECA member, one DESA member, one NYSDEC member, 2 ERRS personnel and three RST3 personnel.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.